

**PROGRAM POLICY COORDINATION WORKGROUP
MINUTES**

December 11, 2003

GEF III, Room 349

Attendees:

Carol Amelong, DHFS/BIMA
Autumn Arnold, DHFS/Prg. Participation Grant
Shirin Cabraal, LAW
Jonathan Bader, WISCAP
Monica Danley, Milwaukee Co. DHS
Sara Edmonds, DHFS/BHCE
Janet Even, DHFS/Prg. Participation Grant
Nancy Foss, DHFS/DHCF
Jim Hennen, DHFS/SE Region
Jon Janowski, MHTF
Stacia Jankowski, DHFS

Donna King, DHCF/UWO CCDET
John LaPhilliph, BHCE/DHCF
Carol Medaris, WCCF
Mike McKenzie, DHFS/BHCE
Sue Moline-Larson, LOPP
Michelle Pauser, DHFS
Linda Preyz, DWD/W-2
Scott Riedasch, BHCE/DHCF
Sheryl Siegl, Winnebago Co. DHS

Program Participation Grant

Janet Even and Autumn Arnold

Janet and Autumn updated the committee on the progress of the Program Participation Grant. They presented some handouts that were very helpful to the group in illustrating the direction the project is going. Handouts included: contact info for the project, a description of the project, stakeholder map for the customer service toolbox, a study of self-screener models they have reviewed and a list of the considerations and questions they will present to the focus groups. Meetings with the focus groups are set for January and February of 2004. They have met with representatives from WISCAP and WIC and will be meeting with Hunger Task Force staff in the near future. These organizations will help coordinate the focus groups. They will be developing a more clear timeline for implementation soon.

Several of the existing self-screeners were discussed. The comprehensive federal screener is quite long but does include many programs (www.govbenefits.gov) and the FNS pre-screener is targeted to food programs. It was suggested that we err on the side of inclusion while still delivering as accurate a benefit projection as possible.

Reduced Reporting

Sara Edmonds

Sara shared with the group her email address and phone/fax numbers for input on the SMIRF (six-month interim report form). A final due date for revisions has not yet been determined but will need to be soon as the continuing work on the reminder letter, the instruction sheet and the returned SMIRF letter all depend on how this form is designed. The first small batch will be sent out in June 2004.

John LaPhilliph reported that he is currently working on an issue paper for reduced reporting for Medicaid.

Medical Assistance for Released Inmates

John LaPhilliph

John has had some recent meetings to finalize the DDB application process for MA for newly released inmates. The Department of Corrections estimates that there are approximately 800-1500 inmates suffering serious mental health issues. DOC supplies them with only 2 weeks of medication. One concern in this process is that the DOC staff may not always know the inmate's release date in sufficient time to complete this process. These applications should be filed 90 days prior to their release date. The DOC staff will be acting as authorized representatives for the inmates to start the Medicaid application process. The implementation date is set for February 1, 2004, although Department of Corrections is unsure if they will be ready for that date due to staff training needs. Theresa Fosbinder will be putting together a training for DOC.

Annuities Policy Clarification

Scott Riedasch

Recently, the federal government clarified that, if an annuity can be sold, it must be considered to be an available and countable resource in determining eligibility. The Department has offered some options as to how this could be implemented:

- 1) Affect all applications from 1/1/04 on,
- 2) Affect the case at review,
- 3) Apply to annuities purchased on or after the effective date.

Secretary Nelson suggested:

- 1) Affect all new applications from 1/1/04 on,
- 2) Apply to annuities purchased on or after the budget was passed. This method seems problematic and would require CARES changes.

There was group discussion regarding another option that would involve capping the amount of the annuity. This would require an administrative ruling. Scott suggested taking the issue to IMAC next week.

Funeral & Cemetary Aids Program

Scott Riedasch

Scott covered this topic briefly. He gave the group an Issue Summary detailing the change. The major change in this program is that the appropriation in the budget for this program was changed to "sum certain" rather than the previous "sum sufficient." The dilemma is that only the legislature can authorize GPR increases to a sum certain appropriation and it would require change in state statute in order to be able to limit amounts reimbursed to county/tribal agencies. The CY04 allocation for this program is \$4.5 million (GPR). If DHFS uses the same county allocation methodology that has been used in the past, \$5.1 million would be needed. Since the appropriation is biennial, expenditures over the \$4.5 million allotment can be covered by SFY 2005 funds. However, use of next year's funds will only increase the problem then. DHFS is looking at short-term and long-term solutions to this funding issue.

**Next Meeting - Thursday, February 12, 2004 - 12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Dane County Job Center, Ballroom**